

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate notification of allowable subject matter, i.e. that claim 108 is allowable. The claims pending herein recite subject matter of that allowed claim.

Claims 61-107 have been cancelled without prejudice, claim 108 has been amended to add further clarity (i.e. non-substantive amendment) and claims 109-155 have been added. No new matter has been added by virtue of the new claims. Support for the new claims appears e.g. in the original claims of the application. The amendment of claim 108 merely addresses the form of the claim.

Claims 61-68, 70-74, 76, 79, 80, 85, 88, 89, 94, 97, 99-101 and 103-106 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 over SU733670.

Claims 75, 81-84, 90-92, and 98 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over SU733670 in view of EP349443.

Claims 69 and 102 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over SU733670 in view of the article by Tanimoto et al (entitled "Micro Force Sensor for Intravascular Neurosurgery and *In Vivo* Experiment").

Claims 77, 86 and 87 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over SU733670 in view of Brown et al (US4841987).

Claims 95 and 96 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over SU733670 in view of Hall (US5411511).

Claim 93 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over SU733670 in view of Shan (US5728044).

Claim 77 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §013(a) over SU733670 in view of Aristides (US5928158).

Claim 78 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §013(a) over SU733670 in view of Epstein (US5437657).

Claim 107 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §013(a) over SU733670 in view of Steinberg et al (US5746748).

For the sake of brevity, the several rejections are addressed in combinations. Such a combined response is considered appropriate because, *inter alia*, each of the rejections relies on the SU733670 as the sole or primary citation.

Each of the rejections is traversed.

While Applicants fully disagree with the rejections, including for reasons in Applicants' prior response, as indicated above, the claims pending herein recite subject matter indicated to be allowable. Accordingly, it is believed the rejections are moot.

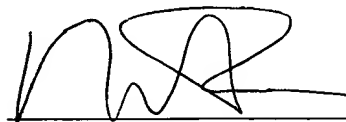
In view thereof, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are requested.

It is believed the application is in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

DeJuan, et al.
U.S.S.N.: 09/756,649
Page 10

Respectfully submitted,

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Corless', written over a horizontal line.

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